

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of January 19, 2022
Meeting Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio, David Andrade, Michael Healy
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime
Asst. Town Administrator/ Director of Human Resources: Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at **6:05 p.m.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

Board and Committee Openings

M. Healy read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

Community Speaks -N/A

A. Consider the promotion of Lieutenant Jeffrey Magill to Fire Captain

Promotion and swearing in ceremony will take place once in-person meetings resume

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the promotion of Lieutenant Jeffrey Magill to Fire Captain effectively immediately; A. Petronio seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

B. Consider the promotion of Fire Fighter Matthew Bradford to Lieutenant

Promotion and swearing in ceremony will take place once in-person meetings resume

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the promotion of Fire Fighter Matthew Bradford to Lieutenant effectively immediately; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

C. Consider Rescinding the Conditional Officer of Employment for Miriam Henry for the position of Senior Secretary with the Planning board and Zoning Board of Appeals

C. Zorra made a motion to rescind the offer of employment for Miriam Henry for the position of Senior secretary with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

D. Consider the annual designation of Sharonlynn Hall as Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the annual designation of Sharonlynn Hall as Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

E. Consider the annual designation of Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the annual designation of Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

F. Consider the annual designation of Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL Ch 140, §151

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the annual designation of Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer per MGL 140, §151; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

G. Consider the appointment of Stacey Papo to the Parks and Recreation Committee

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the appointment of Stacey Papo to the Parks and Recreation Committee; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

H. Consider the appointment of Edward Monigan to the Department of Public Works Building Committee

C. Zorra made a motion to appoint Edward Monigan to the Department of Public Works Building Committee; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

I. Consider the appointment of Michael Gagne to the Department of Public Works Building Committee

C. Zorra made a motion to appoint Michael Gagne to the Department of Public Works Building Committee; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

J. Consider the appointment of Kevin Hurst to the Department of Public Works Building Committee

C. Zorra made a motion to appoint Kevin Hurst to the Department of Public Works Building Committee; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

K. LICENSE HEARING: Consider the request for a “One Day Special Event Permit” for Gary Minnisian, Ocean State Multisport, to conduct two road races to be held on May 15, 2022 and August 7, 2022 with a start to be located at the Newman YMCA, 472 Taunton Avenue

Gary Minnisian from Ocean State Multisport was on zoom call summarizing the events. These are annual events that have been held for the past 11 years and no changes are scheduled to take place.

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the request for a “One Day Special Event Permit” for Gary Minnisian, Ocean State Multisport, to conduct the two road races; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTED: 5-0 all in favor

L. LICENSE HEARING: Consider the request for a change of address for a Class II Motor Vehicle License for International Global Trading, LLC to be located at 1165 Fall River Avenue

John Vanikiotis, owner and manager of International Global Trading, LLC, was on the zoom call to request a change of address. His business address for the past 6 years was at Briarbrook Plaza. The office has moved to 1165 Fall River Avenue. No vehicles will be parked onsite. The license remains wholesale only.

C. Zorra made a motion to approve the request for a change of address for a Class II Motor Vehicle License for International Global Trading, LLC to be located at 1165 Fall River Avenue; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and it was unanimously approved.

VOTED: 5-0 all in favor

M. JOINT MEETING WITH THE ENERGY COMMITTEE to discuss a proposal to develop a Solar Photovoltaic project at the landfill property located at 0 Fall River Avenue, Plat 11, Lot 56

Charles Beauchamp, Chairman of the Energy Committee, called the joint meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Energy Committee Members Present on the Zoom call: Charles Beauchamp, Bob Braunsdorf, Paul Waltz

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 all in favor

Chairman Beauchamp presented to the Board why and how the town can develop solar power behind the American legion. There have been 150 towns that have developed solar on capped landfills and it can serve as a source of revenue. The Energy Committee is offering to help the Town develop the RFP.

A. Petronio said it was approved at Town meeting and understands the benefits, but they need to also consider the site location, who will perform the work, i.e., will the Leasee be involved, responsible, etc.

Mr. Beauchamp said the committee received 1 formal and 1 informal proposal years ago. The State has a specific guide how to develop solar photovoltaic on landfills. The RFP should say “any responders *shall* develop the landfill in accordance to the state guide” and include the link.

Two people spoke in favor of the project:

1) Martha Torrance, 462 Ledge Road; and 2) Sarah Jane Lapp, 128 Walker Street.

Chair Sullivan wanted to consider the timing of this project with the DPW building project.

M. Healy suggested allowing the Energy Committee to start the project before the DPW building project begins and the possibility of utilizing the benefits of solar panels at that time.

C. Beauchamp said the committee would like to separate the projects as well and not prolong it.

Michelle Hines, Ricard Street, provided clarification that each grant has certain perimeters and any money given to the Energy Committee can only be used for that specific project.

C. Beauchamp said since the Town owns the land, they don’t pay taxes on the land and are unable to receive grants or tax benefits. The Town would have to do an RFP to lease the land.

D. Andrade made a motion to authorize Mr. Cadime to initiate the RFP process for the solar project; M. Healy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

C. Beauchamp adjourned the Energy Committee joint meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Roll call vote: 3-0 all in favor

N. Consider accepting the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$12,244.79

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$12,244.79; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

O. Consider accepting the Massachusetts Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program Grant in the amount of \$798,000.00

Chief Isabella provided a presentation and summarized the grant. In summary, the grant will fund the development and implementation of a regional co-responding program to address opioid overdoses and mental health crisis calls for service in the following Bristol County police agencies: Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Rehoboth, Mansfield, Dighton, Easton, & Fairhaven.

M. Healy suggested this discussion be continued to allow time for the Board to review all the information provided.

Chief Isabella said they have 45 days (February 7, 2022) to respond.

Chair Sullivan said the next meeting is scheduled for February, 2, 2022.

D. Andrade asked for more specific information be provided, such as how the program may impact the department, overtime, or need for additional staffing.

Chief Isabella said the officers currently respond to these types of calls. The program will provide additional training and allow them to do a more extensive follow-up.

C. Zorra made a motion to accept the Massachusetts Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program Grant in the amount of \$798,156; A. Petronio seconded, and it was voted:

Roll Call Vote: 3 in favor and 2 against due to outstanding questions (M. Healy/D. Andrade)

Chief Isabella said he will provide answers to the Board's questions.

P. Discussion with the Seekonk Little League regarding the lights at Water Lane

Mike Boisvert, 140 St. Laurent Pkwy, is the current President of the Little League program. He explained 27 towns have lights on their fields. DPW and Parks and Recreation have worked to repair the fields and would like to move forward with adding lights on two of the three fields.

Jeff Kenyon, Vice-President of the league, stated registrations are increasing and Fall ball has tripled. Since it gets dark between 5-6:00 p.m. adding lights would allow longer play times and night games. It would also allow the league to offer tournaments which can generate revenue. The league has met with Parks and Recreation Director, John Pozzi, and the Chairman of the Committee, Jim Troiano. They suggested speaking with the Board before moving forward. They anticipate being able to raise between \$20,000-\$40,000.

Jim Troiano, Chairman of Parks and Recreation Committee, 154 Burnside Avenue, was on the call and said he was in support of the idea. The Committee would like to move forward and work with the league for a long-term plan.

D. Andrade said he would recommend they provide more specific details and get additional information, such as an estimate for the project. Once they have more details, he asked them to bring it back to the Board for further discussion.

M. Boisvert said they will work with Mr. Pozzi and Parks and Recreation Committee to get a more specific cost estimate.

Q. Consider the approval of Board and Committee Handbook

D. Andrade made a motion to approve the Board and Committee Handbook; Petronio seconded and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

R. Discussion of ABC Disposal Service Inc./Waste Collections US Holdings, Inc. Assignment Agreement

S. Cadime explained ABC Disposal is selling the company to Waste Collections US Holdings, Inc. Legal reviewed the contract and KP Law drafted the agreement. Since the agreement was drafted, ABC Disposal updated the information in their document to include their affiliate, E. L. Harvey & Son's. Mr. Cadime asked to go back to Town Counsel to have them review the new information and to incorporate the affiliate in the contract.

D. Andrade asked if the terms of the contract and expiration date remain the same.

S. Cadime stated yes and the contract expires in June 2024.

C. Zorra made a motion accept the agreement amended by KP Law; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

S. Consider accepting the American Rescue Plan Act Funds in the amount of \$1,650,623.10 for the category of "lost revenue"

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board approve the ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,650,623.10 for the category of lost revenue. He explained the categories ARPA funds can be used; 1) water/sewer infrastructure; 2) broadband (to address issues of not meeting the minimum speed limit and lack of access, i.e., central and/or western mass); 3) public sector revenue loss; 4) premium pay for essential workers ; 5) negative economic impacts; 6) supporting public health response. Within each of these categories certain criteria must be met. The money will be treated as grants and will have separate accounts. Mr. Cadime advised the Board the Town cannot pay down debt with ARPA funds.

D. Andrade made a motion to accept the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$1,650,623.10; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

T. Discussion of the use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Senior Center Building Project

S. Cadime provided an update regarding funding for Phase II of the Senior Center project. As previously discussed, they were overbudgeted by \$400,000. The auditor and Legal Counsel clarified and approved the Town can appropriate \$400,000 from the lost revenue account provided by ARPA funding.

A. Petronio made motion to utilize the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$400,000 for the Senior Center Building Project; C. Zorra seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

U. Second Quarter Budget Review with Grants

Mr. Cadime provided presentation of the second quarter budget review of FY22. To date, FY 2022 remains balanced and no major issues have been identified. Salaries and Expenditures are trending below budgeted forecast. Revenues are trending ahead of the budgeted projections.

V. Consider accepting the minutes of December 1, 2021 and December 15, 2021

A. Petronio made a motion to accept the minutes of December 1, 2021; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 4-1 (abstained-D. Andrade)

A. Petronio made a motion to accept the minutes of December 15, 2021; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 3-2 (abstained-D. Andrade. C. Zorra)

Community Speaks: *(questions were asked online prior to meeting due to Zoom call)*

Carol Bragg asked when the special town meeting will be scheduled for discussion of the Town Charter.

Chair Sullivan answered the Town Clerk did a lot of research and it was determined due to the time allowed (elections and holidays) the Town will not be able to hold a Special Town Meeting at this time. The Board will have further discussion regarding this at an upcoming meeting.

Tom Benoit asked about the sidewalk project on Arcade Avenue. He asked who the contract was awarded to, the total cost of project, and the estimated completion date. He also asked for the status of the traffic light at Ledge Road and Arcade Avenue.

S. Cadime stated the work completed to date has performed by DPW. The concrete curbing and side walk was put out to bid and was awarded to Narragansett Improvement in the amount of \$125,000. DPW has done the site work, clearing and prep work. Ransom Consulting was procured for design and they are preparing documents for the wooden guard rail. Completion for the sidewalk and guardrail is targeted for June/July. Completion of the traffic signal will most likely be completed next year.

OTHER BUSINESS – N/A

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – N/A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy) -N/A
- Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra) – N/A
- 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – N/A

Adjournment to Enter into Executive Session

D. Andrade made a motion to adjourn open session meeting to enter into executive session at 9:27 p.m.; it was seconded by A. Petronio, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the January 19, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Annual Designation of Sharonnlynne Hall as Animal Control Officer
- Annual Designation of Andrea Russo as Animal Control Officer
- Annual Designation of Jessica Blake as Assistant Animal Control Officer
- Talent Bank form Stacey Papo
- Talent Bank form Edward Monigan
- Talent Bank form Michael Gagne
- Talent Bank form Kevin Hurst
- Gary Minnisian, Ocean State Multisport request for a One-Day Special Permit
- Change of address request for Motor Vehicle II License for International Global Trading, LLC
- Email from Chief Lowery and correspondence from the Governor's Office regarding the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
- Presentation of the Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant & Substance Abuse Program
- Board and Committee Handbook
- ABC Disposal Service, Inc./Waste Collections US Holdings, Inc. assignment agreement and correspondence from ABC Disposal Service, Inc.
- FY 22 2nd Quarter Budget Review presentation